

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 22, 2011

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 720**

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**Introduced by Senator Runner**  
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Knight)

February 18, 2011

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An act to amend Section 12817 of the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 720, as amended, Runner. Vehicles: drivers' licenses: military personnel and their ~~dependents~~ *spouses*.

Existing law requires a California driver's license held by a person who enters or is in the United States Armed Forces to continue in full force and effect, so long as the service continues and the person remains absent from this state, and for a period not to exceed 30 days following the date the holder of the license is honorably separated from service or returns to this state, among other things.

This bill would extend the above benefit to ~~a dependent, as defined,~~ *the spouse* of the person who enters or is in the United States Armed Forces, as specified.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 12817 of the Vehicle Code is amended
- 2 to read:
- 3 12817. (a) A California driver's license held by a person who
- 4 enters or is in the United States Armed Forces shall continue in

1 full force and effect, so long as the service continues and the person  
2 remains absent from this state, and for a period not to exceed 30  
3 days following the date the holder of the license is honorably  
4 separated from that service or returns to this state, *whichever is*  
5 *earlier*, unless the license was suspended, canceled, or revoked  
6 for cause as provided by law. The license is valid only if it is in  
7 the immediate possession of the licensee ~~while driving~~ and the  
8 licensee has in his or her immediate possession discharge or  
9 separation papers if the licensee has been discharged or separated  
10 from the service.

11 (b) ~~(1)~~—A California driver's license held by a ~~dependent spouse~~  
12 of a person described in subdivision (a) shall continue in full force  
13 and effect, so long as the person described in subdivision (a)  
14 continues in *the* service and remains absent from this state and the  
15 ~~dependent spouse~~ remains absent from this state, and for a period  
16 not to exceed 30 days following the date the person described in  
17 subdivision (a) is honorably separated from that service or the date  
18 ~~that that~~ *the* person or the ~~dependent spouse~~ returns to this state,  
19 *whichever is earlier*, unless the ~~dependent's spouse's~~ license was  
20 suspended, canceled, or revoked for cause *as* provided by law.  
21 The license is valid only ~~when if it is~~ in the immediate possession  
22 of the licensee ~~while driving~~ *and the licensee has in his or her*  
23 *immediate possession discharge or separation papers of the person*  
24 *described in subdivision (a).*

25 ~~(2) For purposes of this subdivision, a dependent means the~~  
26 ~~wife or minor child of the person described in subdivision (a).~~